

Mr. Hamilton's Language Arts 8 Course Outline 2025-2026

Language Arts Program Rationale and Philosophy

The aim of English language arts is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning. Students become confident and competent users of all six language arts through many opportunities to listen and speak, read and write, and view and represent in a variety of combinations and relevant contexts. All the language arts are interrelated and interdependent; facility in one strengthens and supports the others. In the outcomes of the program of studies, the six language arts are integrated.

Language Arts 8 Course Overview

Welcome to your 8th grade year! In order to ensure the following year is a successful one for you, please take a moment to read this document thoroughly. **You are responsible for your own learning, be involved, aware and come to class prepared.**

Units Covered in Grade 8:

1. Grammar & Sentence Structure
2. Elements of Fiction and Short Stories
3. Novel Study
4. Essays
5. Visual Literacy
6. Autobiographies
7. Poetry
8. Text Analysis

Attendance is essential in order to be successful in any course. When absences are unavoidable, it is your responsibility to follow along on Google Classroom at home to keep up with us. Each day a student is absent, the days' lessons, materials and work will be posted on Google Classroom for LA. If a student is very ill and cannot keep up at home, please let me know ASAP so accommodations can be made.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is updated daily in LA 8 to keep students informed on what was taught each day. Please note, once students are populated into Google Classroom, you will receive an invite via email to follow along with what they are doing where you will also find an electronic copy of this course outline and upcoming assignments. **Google classroom is accessible from ANY device that has the internet, this includes cell phones!**

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is kept up to date with students' progress in my classroom. You may see scores, if something is missing, late or incomplete at any time. In grade 8, I expect students to be accessing their own PowerSchool often to understand where they stand in my class. <https://www.prsd8.ca/public/home.html>

Grading System:

Term Mark:

- Class Participation/Bellwork/Homework Check 10%
- Assignments/Projects – 30%
- Quizzes – 20%
- Unit Exams – 40%

Final Mark:

Term 1 – 25%
Term 2 – 25%
Term 3 – 25%
Final Exam – 25%
Total Year: 100%

Coming to Class Prepared

Students are expected to come to class each day with the following items:

1. A grade appropriate novel to read*
2. The correct binder with loose leaf
3. Chromebook - must be fully charged everyday!
4. Bellwork Journal - RECENTLY ADDED TO SUPPLY LIST (**Hilroy Exercise Book, 7mm Ruled, 3-Hole Punched, 10-7/8" x 8-3/8", 80 Pages, 3 Pack**)
5. A pencil, eraser, pen, and highlighter
6. White out and a ruler
7. A filled water bottle/snack if wanted (students aren't leaving to refill bottles or buy/get snacks during class)

*Grade appropriate novels (within one or two grade levels) are extremely important for students to expand their vocabulary, understand complex/compound sentence structures, gain insight into more complex writing, character development, plot, conflicts and themes that will help to strengthen their reading, writing and overall critical thinking and analysis skills. Books and novels that are well below grade level do not offer these key developmental aspects that help higher grade level students thrive!

If we need other things like markers or pencil crayons, you will be allowed to head to your locker to get them, unless you've been told in previous classes to bring for the next day or we are working on something that you know requires these things (in the middle of a project for example). Leaving the classroom to get things that should be brought daily will result in detentions. You will not be allowed to leave to go grab snacks or forgotten bottles. Bottom line: come prepared!

Assignment Due Dates

All assignments will be given a clear and achievable due date and are expected to be submitted neatly, on time and properly completed in their designated hand in bin or if on Google Classroom, submitted by pressing the "turn in" button.

Many times students feel that due dates are fluid and assignments can be submitted past the due date whenever they want, this is not the case in my classroom. If an assignment is not handed in on time, students will be asked to attend lunchtime homework club to complete the missing assignment.

Most students will turn in the assignment the next day to avoid additional lunch work periods, however, if a student does not turn in the assignment the following day, they will be back in homework club each day until it is turned in, and parents/guardians contacted. If a student fails to show up at homework club, or continues to be required to be sent there for incomplete work, further disciplinary actions will be taken (parent call home, office detention and administrative involvement).

If students are struggling with assignments, the following steps need to be taken by the student:

1. Evaluate your use of class time
2. Go over your assignment again and ensure you understand what is required
3. Use your notes and previous assignments to help guide you
4. See me!

Redoing Assignments

Any assignment that receives a grade less than 75% may be redone in order to increase your grade but must be student initiated.

Assignments being redone must be attached to the original assignment and **handed back to me within one week**. **This is not a privilege extended to assignments that are originally handed in late or incomplete on purpose in order to receive additional time.**

Late Policy

Enter the room quietly, place your cell phone in the basket and head to your desk *without* disrupting my teaching or your classmates working. Take a look at what we are doing and join in. If you do not know what we are doing, hold on, I'll get to you when I can take a break and catch you up. Chronic lates will result in an at lunch or after school detention and possible further disciplinary action by the school.

Cell Phones

Upon entering my classroom, there is a cell phone basket where you will be required to place your phone, handheld gaming devices, iPads or similar devices into if they have not been left in your locker. Earbuds, iPods or similar are not allowed in your ears. Occasionally I will allow you to listen to music on your chromebook only, I will let you know, do not ask. These are school wide policies.

Detention Policy

Detentions for behavioural issues will be given to students and are to be served that day at either lunch or afterschool (time will be decided by myself and the student). Consistent detention or discipline issues with a student will result in further disciplinary actions involving parents/guardians and school administration. **Students are expected to practice proper respect for the learning, physical space/property, and dignity/wellbeing of others and are held to a high standard in my classroom.**

Plagiarism and AI Use

It goes without saying that plagiarism and AI use on all assignments and course work is strictly prohibited in all forms. Issues with either of these will immediately be dealt with through detentions, a call home, loss of grades, redoing the work and office involvement.

Contact

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at sterlinghamilton@prrd8.ca and I will get back to you in a timely manner!

Please acknowledge your understanding of the course outline by signing and return the bottom portion.

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Class: -----

Student Name: -----

Student Signature: -----

Parent/Guardian #1:

Parent/Guardian Name: -----

Parent/Guardian Signature: -----

Best contact number: -----

Best contact email: -----

Parent/Guardian #2:

Parent/Guardian Name: -----

Parent/Guardian Signature: -----

Best contact number: -----

Best contact email: -----

Main contact for student celebrations/questions/concerns (please check):

- Parent/guardian contact #1
- Parent/guardian contact #2
- Contact both parents/guardians